

REMARKS

Claims 9-11, 13-30, 35-52, 54-69, 117-123, 131-134 are pending in the present application, of which claims 117-121, 131-132 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment After Final, Applicant requests that (i) independent claims 13 and 60 be amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 16 and 66; (ii) claims 17, 19-21, 23-24, 61-65, 67-69, 133-134 be amended to correct minor informalities respectively; (iii) claims 9-11, 14-16, 25-30, 35-52, 54-59, 66, 117-123, and 131-132 be canceled; and (iv) newly presented claims 135-168 be added to depend from the allowable independent claims 13, 60, 133, and 134. As no new matter is introduced and no new issues for consideration are raised, Applicant respectfully requests that these amendments be entered at this time. Particularly, newly added claims 135-168 are directed to features previously claimed or inherent from the claims as examined.

The amendments and cancellation of the claims above is being made solely to expedite prosecution of the present application and do not constitute an acquiescence to any reference identified or objection raised by the examiner. Applicant submits that this patent application is now in condition for allowance, and respectfully requests a timely notice of allowance.

Interview Summary

Applicant acknowledges with appreciation the courtesy extended by the Examiner during the telephone call with the Applicant's attorney of record on December 12, 2005. In accordance with MPEP § 713.04, Applicant summarizes herewith the details of the telephone call with the Examiner.

During the telephone call, the independent claims were discussed with particular attention directed to claims 13 and 60. Applicant's attorney and the Examiner discussed the allowable subject matter of claims 16 and 66, and the prior art relied upon in the Final Office Action. During the interview, it was determined that the subject matter of claim 16 in combination with independent claim 13 was allowable over the prior art, without the need to recite the features of intervening claims 14 and 15. Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 16 has been incorporated into independent claim 13, such that amended claim 13 now recites the allowable subject matter previously acknowledged by the Examiner. Further, claims 14 and 15 have been canceled.

Reasons for Allowance

As requested by the Examiner during the telephonic interview, Applicant provides the following Reasons for Allowance.

In the Final Office Action of September 20, 2005, the Examiner acknowledged claims 133 and 134 were in condition for allowance, and further objected to claims 16 and 66 for reciting allowable subject matter though being dependent on a rejected base claim. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's favorable review.

With regards to amended independent claim 13, and independent claim 133, the prior art does not disclose each feature as recited including, among other things, the use of a plurality of lasers as claimed. Moreover, dependent claims 17-24, and newly added claims 135-137 and 144-154 are further allowable for reciting additional features not disclosed by the prior art relied upon by the Examiner.

With regards to amended independent claims 60 and 134, the prior art does not disclose each limitation as recited including, among other things, a plurality of webs, drums, and laser beams as claimed. Moreover, dependent claims 61-65, and newly added claims 67-69 and 138-143, and 155-168 are further allowable for reciting additional features not disclosed by the prior art relied upon by the examiner.

CONCLUSION

On the basis of the foregoing Remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims of the present application are allowable over the prior art of record. Claims 13, 17-24, 60-65, 67-69, 133-168 are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and timely allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Applicant submits that this After Final Amendment does not raise new issues for consideration or necessitate the undertaking of any additional search of the art by the Examiner because all of the elements and their relationships were either earlier claimed or inherent in the claims as examined. This After Final Amendment therefore allows for immediate action by the Examiner.

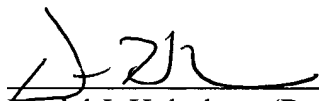
Applicant also submits that entry of this Amendment After Final and the accompanying Remarks would place the present application in better form for appeal, should the Examiner dispute the patentability of any of the pending claims.

Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fees (including fees for extra claims) and/or credit any overpayments associated with this paper to Winston & Strawn Deposit Account No. 50-1814, Ref. No. 86012-29300-USPT

Further, if a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not provided for above or in the attached Petition, Applicant requests such extension and authorizes the charging of the extension fee to Winston & Strawn Deposit Account No. 50-1814, Ref. No. 86012-29300-USPT.

Respectfully submitted,

January 20, 2006
Date


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